

## Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 151232Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 8105

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF SU

SUBJECT: GOE CONCERN ABOUT POST-DISENGAGEMENT CRITICISM

1. AS RESULT OF HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE OF DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND ESPECIALLY "INFORMED" SPECULATION FROM TEL AVIV AND WASHINGTON (E.G., TEL AVIV 5296), PARAMETERS OF POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT ARE BEGINNING TO BE MOOTED LOCALLY. FURTHER, SOME EGYPTIANS INCLUDING AHRAH'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THEY ARE WORRIED THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE POOR FROM EGYPTIAN POINT OF VIEW. SENIOR LEVELS OF GOE ARE ACUTELY AWARE THAT EVEN IF AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAN THEY HAD HOPED FOR, ANTI-SADAT ELEMENTS WILL ENDEAVOR GENERATE WITHIN EGYPT SEVERE CRITICISM OF GOE "GIVEAWAY".

2. PRINCIPAL POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS ARE SOVIETS, PALESTINIANS, AND LIBYANS.

A. SOVIETS. USSR IS APPARENTLY NOT ENDEAVORING TO OBSTRUCT CURRENT DISENGAGEMENT, WHICH, THEY SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED, COULD SERVE SOVIET NO PEACE/NO WAR POLICY. BY MAKING RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES LESS LIKELY, DISENGAGEMENT CAN BE PLAYED DIRECTLY BY

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SOVIETS, AND INDIRECTLY BY SURROGATE ARABS, AS SELF-SERVING

EGYPTIAN DEAL WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEE OF SUBSEQUENT GOLAN MOVEMENT OR ANY CRUMB OF COMFORT FOR PALESTINE CAUSE. IF GENEVA IS CONVENED TO RATIFY NEW AGREEMENT, SOVIETS WILL HAVE TAILOR-MADE FORUM FOR POINTED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IF THEY DECIDE TO PILLORY AS INADEQUATE WHATEVER AGREEMENT EMERGES.

B. PLO. INFORMED JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN TALKING TO ARAFAT'S GROUP IN ALEXANDRIA TELL US PLO-SADAT RELATIONS HAVE HIT NEW LOW. THERE IS, IN FACT, NOTHING OF SHORT TERM VALUE FOR PLO IN ANY SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. ALTHOUGH GOE WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE TO CALM PALESTINIANS, THERE IS LITTLE SADAT CAN DO TO STRENGTHEN MODERATE TRENDS WITHIN PLO. FAHMY HAS URGED PLO TO FORM GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE AS STEP TOWARD BRINGING PALESTINIANS INTO PEACE PROCESS. AT PLO REQUEST, HE HAS ALSO URGED AGAIN THAT USG INITIATE CONTACTS WITH PLO. IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT ARAFAT HAS FELT HIMSELF STRENGTHENED BY SUCH WEAK TEA AS THIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE FAHMY HAS TOLD HIM GOE WILL DEFEND ITSELF VIGOROUSLY IF ATTACKED IN PUBLIC MEDIA (CAIRO 7844). IF PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL DOES CONVENE SEPT (AHAM, AUG 1)2) OR OCTOBER (AKHBAR, AUG 15) IN CAIRO TO ELECT NEW EXCOMM FEELING HERE IS THAT ARAFAT AND MODERATES WILL BE IN VERY WEAK POSITION, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH GOE SEEMS POWERLESS TO COUNTER.

C. LIBYA. LARG WILL NO DOUBT EXPLODE WITH WRATH IF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED. EGYPTIAN ANXIETY ABOUT LIBYAN TROUBLEMAKING HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY AGGRAVATED BY RISING SUSPICION THAT LIBYANS AND SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN CONCERTED DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOE. ALTHOUGH SOVIET OPERATIONS IN EGYPT ARE UNDER CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE, LIBYAN SYMPATHIZERS ARE MUCH HARDER TO IDENTIFY BECAUSE OF BROAD APPEAL OF TRIPOLI'S FUZZY WARNINGS AGAINST "ATHEISTIC" AND "IMPERIALISTIC" GOE PROCLIVITIES. GOE CONTINUES CONFRONT CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING LARG-FINANCED SABOTEURS, AND HAS FAILED APPREHEND ALLEGEDLY KNOWN ASSASSINATION SQUADS.

3. GOE'S CONCERN FOR INTERNAL SECURITY IS DEFINITELY INCREASING AS DISENGAGEMENT APPEARS TO DRAW NEAR, AND MAY ACCOUNT FOR SUDDEN SURFACING JULY 22 OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. BUT AN IMAGE OF COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING WILL BE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL HELP TO MININT, WHO WILL FACE UNENVIABLE TASK OF KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON  
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POTENTIAL SUBVERSION FROM BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT, WHILE AT SAME TIME TRYING TO MAINTAIN "OPEN" SOCIETY OF WHICH SADAT IS SO PROUD.  
EITLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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